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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/994,479	11/27/2001	David M. Pini	03226.035001;P5030	7240
32615	7590	06/09/2004	EXAMINER	
OSHA & MAY L.L.P./SUN 1221 MCKINNEY, SUITE 2800 HOUSTON, TX 77010				KIM, KENNETH S
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2111				

DATE MAILED: 06/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/994,479	PINI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kenneth S KIM	2111	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 November 2001.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.



KENNETH S. KIM
 PRIMARY EXAMINER

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

1. Claims 1-11 are presented for examination.
2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
3. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
 - (a) Claim 1, it is not clear from where to where the data is loaded for the latency to be measured and how the latency is reduced.
 - (b) Claim 1, it is not clear what is the difference between the data path and bypass and why a sign bit is transferred via a bypass when a sign bit is transferred along with the data to the aligner.
 - (c) Claim 1, it is not clear what is the function of the aligner (i.e., what is aligned to what).
 - (d) Claim 2, it is not clear what is perform by "adjusting".
 - (e) Claims 3 and 4, it is not clear what is performed by "selectively processing".
 - (f) Claim 5, the same as (a) to (c).
 - (g) Claim 6, "select component providing a signal to generate a sign bit" is inconsistent with the "*transfer* of the sign bit from the cache memory".
 - (h) Claims 7 and 11, it is not clear what is the difference between the sign multiplexer and the real sign multiplexer.
 - (i) Claim 10, the same as (b) to (e).

(j) Claim 11, the same as (b), (c), and (g).

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Simone, U.S. Patent No. 5,638,312.

Simone teaches the invention as claimed in claim 1 including a method for reducing signed load latency in a microprocessor comprising:

- (a) transferring data from a cache memory (101) to an aligner (102),
- (b) generating a sign bit for the data (col. 8, line 35),
- (c) transferring the sign bit to the aligner via a bypass (fig. 7), and further teaches as in claims 2-4,
- (d) adjusting the data and sign bit during the transfer (fig. 7) – claim 2,
- (e) selectively processing a part of the data (707) for use in generating the sign bit based on an instruction from a CPU (fig. 6, data format code; col. 5, line 4) – claims 3 and 4.

The apparatus claims 5-9 with a real sign multiplexer (707), and sub-aligners (701, 702, 705, 706), and the apparatus claims 10 and 11 are equivalently rejected based on the same reason.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Jarvis et al taught a method of executing variable latency load operations.

Tamura et al taught a method of sign extension.

Ganapathy et al taught a method of aligning process including sign extension.

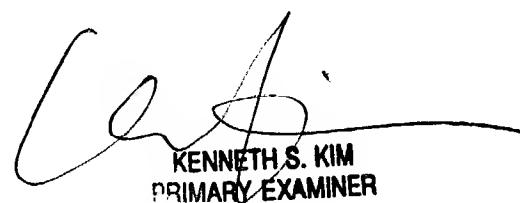
Thayer et al taught a method of processing signed data load and store.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth S KIM whose telephone number is (703) 305-9693. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-17:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (703) 305-4815. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

June 4, 2004



KENNETH S. KIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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